



Flathead Job Service Employers' Council

Hosted at The Wave

September 18, 2008

Present:

Shannon Brittenham, Chair
Terry Mitton, Vice Chair
Margaret LeKander, Treasurer
Marcy Roberts
Terri Haueter
Mora McCarthy
Bill Nelson
Kristin Donahue
Lori Ann Sullivan

Putman & Associates Inc
City of Kalispell
Wheaton's Cyclery
Montana Employment Opportunities
Flathead Job Service
Flathead Job Service
Flathead Job Service
Employment Dimensions
Kalispell Regional Medical Center

Guests(s):

Art Krueger, Manager

The Wave

Called to Order: Shannon Brittenham, Chair

Welcome & Introductions

Presentation:

Art Krueger, Manager of the Wave, treated us to a tour of that state of the art aquatic and fitness center in Whitefish. Before the tour, Art gave us a quick history of the vision and tremendous community support that led to the realization of the impressive facility. When asked about their competition, he replied that it is only the outdoors and all the seasonal, outdoor activities that the Flathead has to offer.

Minutes: Margaret LeKander made a motion to accept last meeting's minutes (May 15, 2008) and Kristin Donahue seconded; minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Margaret reported that our current balance is \$5380.25.

There will be a final balance owed to Kristin Donahue for the Retention Reality Series. Terry Mitton made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Lori Ann Sullivan seconded; report accepted.

Old Business

501 (c) 3: Shannon reported the paperwork that was submitted has been received because the check was cashed. Our application is being processed and Shannon will advise as soon as she hears the outcome.

New Business

Employee Handbook Series: Mora reported that the first 10 week session started this morning with 19 people enrolled, which meant that $\frac{3}{4}$ of employers took advantage of the opportunity to send 2 people to create their handbooks. Because it filled up and there was additional demand, a second 10 week session will begin 9/30/08. There are already 10 people registered for the 2nd session.

Brown Bag Series: Terri reported that the first Brown Bag of the fall season, “Work Opportunity Tax Credits (WOTC)” was held on Sept 10, 2008 with 20 people in attendance. Many of the Brown Bag sessions this season will focus on increasing employers’ awareness of the diverse employee groups they will need to hire from in the future. The next Brown Bag, Oct 8th, “Is Your Workplace Disability Friendly?” will coincide with October Disability Awareness Month.

Lay Offs: Terry Mitton updated us on the city layoffs underway. A general discussion followed about layoffs across all industries, with a local increase seen especially in construction.

Trade Roots Conference: JSEC had contributed a \$500 sponsorship to the conference which took place in August. Terry Mitton attended the dinner and showed the foreign ambassadors some local culture afterwards. Maggie Conroy, Mora McCarthy, Roberta Diegel and Terri Haueter attended the conference and all agreed it was a truly extraordinary event. Mora read the letter from Maggie describing her appreciation of such a high caliber conference.

Training/Educational Opportunities

Retention Realities Series: Kristin Donahue reported on the upcoming session, “When the Going Gets Tough”, September 24, 2008 from 10:00am – 1:00 pm at the FVCC Community Room. The cost is \$25/person or \$20/person for 2 or more attending from the same organization. For information and to register contact: Mora @ 758-6241 or mmccarthy@mt.gov Flyers were distributed. The final session, “Value-Based Leadership” will be held on October 29th. This has been an extremely successful and well-received series.

Business Resource Library: Shannon reminded of JSEC’s previously pledged support to purchase materials for the Business Resource Library. Mora distributed a proposal from Allison McCarthy, a local trainer and business consultant, which proposed a partnership for a 50/50 cost sharing of the training video “Yes Lives in the Land of No”. Marcy made the motion to accept and Terry seconded. Another new video purchased by the Flathead Job Service, “Seeing Red Cars” will be shown at our October meeting. Mora reported that there is continued use of the resources by the business community as well as the trainers.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 16, 2008 at the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. Presentation by Joe Unterreiner, President/CEO of the Kalispell Chamber will discuss “What’s New & Going On in Your Community”.

Adjournment